



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2301

July 27, 2004

Mr. William Hunt
State Conservationist
NRCS
375 Jackson Street Ste 600
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I have been contacted by a number of my constituents regarding concerns over the signup for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in the Blue Earth River Watershed. I hope that you will be able to quickly resolve these concerns to ensure a successful signup for the program.

There appears to be considerable concern from producers regarding fertilizer application standards for the CSP. It is my understanding that there are significant discrepancies between the standards applied in Minnesota and those applied in Iowa, despite being part of the same watershed. Many of the producers that have contacted me have indicated that this discrepancy is significant enough to preclude them from participating in the program.

I ask that you quickly investigate and resolve this situation. I would expect that a federally managed program should be able to maintain fair and objective standards regardless of State boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration. Please keep me informed as to the resolution of this situation.*

Sincerely,

Gil Gutknecht
Member of Congress

GWG:da